

OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND SUPPORT SERVICES
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
April 19-20, 2007

OFFICE OF DROPOUT PREVENTION

09. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process: To revise the procedures for calculating graduation, completion and dropout counts and rates by tracking cohorts of students in MSIS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Mississippi Code §37-21-9, the Mississippi Department of Education is required to report annually to the Mississippi Legislature on the graduation and dropout rates based on grades 7 through 12 and grades 9 through 12 cohort groups statewide and by district.

In December 2006, the State Board of Education adopted procedures for calculating the graduation, completion and dropout rates. The graduation rate initially included both students earning traditional diplomas as well as special education students who received occupational diplomas.

The graduation rate calculation has been revised, removing special education students receiving occupational diplomas from the population of those counted as graduates. These students will be counted as completers, along with special education students receiving certificates of attendance, and students earning a GED from a district program. This revision serves to align state graduation rate calculations with federal reporting requirements, in which neither occupational diplomas nor GED recipients are included in graduation rate calculations.

The backup material includes the state law, the proposed method of calculation for submission through the APA process, and a chart showing the impact on districts of the removal of students with occupational diplomas.

Backup material attached.

Recommendation: Approval